REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18-23 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The undersigned attorney and Examiner To conducted a telephone interview on July 10, 2007 to discuss the rejections in the recent Official Action. The undersigned attorney discussed how a fair and proper reading of U.S. Patent 5,574,451 to Tanihira reveals that the commander 11 is merely a device that receives signals from the remote controller 64. The undersigned further stated that the feature of the claimed invention, where an interface unit coordinates/arbitrates for radio connection to the external unit, can NOT be read onto the commander 11 since the commander 11 is a one-way device that only receives from the remote controller 64.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1. Claims 1-5 currently stand rejected for allegedly claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent 6,647,327 (hereinafter the " '327 Patent").

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 of the present application are not identical to claims 1-5 of the '327 Patent. Independent claim 1 of the present application recites:

> "A method of data exchange in a vehicular multimedia system that includes an interface unit and a plurality of multimedia units each connected to a data bus in the vehicle, comprising:
>
> establishing a radio connection between the interface unit and an external unit;
>
> receiving from the multimedia units requests for the radio connection with the external unit; and
>
> coordinating/arbitrating at the interface unit requests for radio connection to the external unit." (cl. 1, present application)

Independent claim 1 of the '327 Patent recites

> "A method of data exchange in a vehicular multimedia system that includes an interface unit and a plurality of multimedia units each connected to a data bus **configured as a ring line** in the vehicle, comprising:
>
> establishing a radio connection between the interface unit and an external unit;
>
> receiving from the multimedia units requests for the radio connection with the external unit; and
>
> coordinating/arbitrating at the interface unit requests for radio connection to the external unit." (cl. 1, '327 Patent, emphasis added).

As can be seen from a comparison of independent claim 1 of the present application with independent claim 1 of the '327 Patent, the two claims are not identical. Independent claim 1 of the '327 Patent includes the feature "*configured as a ring line*" not found in independent claim 1 of the present application. The Official Action itself admits that "same invention" type statutory double patenting requires that for the "same invention" the inventions must be drawn to **identical** subject matter. (emphasis added; Official Action, pg. 2). Here, the two independent claims are not identical. As a result, it is submitted that the statutory type double patenting rejection is incorrect and should be removed, and that claims 1-5 are in condition for allowance.

2. Claims 21-23 currently stand rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of claims 6, 20 and 12 of U.S. Patent 6,647,327.

An Official Action mailed January 27, 2005 included a non-statutory double patenting rejection. In response, a Terminal Disclaimer was mailed to the PTO on May 27, 2005. A recent check of the PTO's PAIR system for the present application indicates that the Terminal Disclaimer is part of the image file wrapper for the current application and that the Terminal Disclaimer was approved by Shanette Brown on May 31, 2005, such approval also being listed in the PAIR system

for the current application. As a result, it is submitted that the previously-filed Terminal Disclaimer is sufficient to overcome the non-statutory double patenting rejection of claims 21-23. Thus, the non-statutory double patenting rejection of claims 21-23 should be removed, and claims 21-23 are submitted to be in condition for allowance and should be passed to issuance.

3. Claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18-23 currently stand rejected for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,574,451 to Tanihira (hereinafter "Tanihira").

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a method of data exchange in a vehicular multimedia system that includes an interface unit and a plurality of multimedia units each connected to a data bus in the vehicle. The method includes the steps of:

> "establishing a radio connection between the interface unit and an external unit;
> receiving from the multimedia units requests for the radio connection with the external unit; and
> coordinating/arbitrating at the interface unit requests for radio connection to the external unit." (emphasis added; cl. 1).

Upon a fair and proper reading, Tanihira fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 1 emphasized above; that is the features of "*receiving from the multimedia units requests for the radio connection with the external unit*" and "*coordinating/arbitrating at the interface unit requests for radio connection to the external unit.*" With regard to the feature of "*receiving from the multimedia units requests for the radio connection with the external unit*", this step is used in the present invention when the multimedia units request access to the external unit which is in radio connection with the interface unit. Nowhere in Tanihira is there disclosure that the multimedia units (e.g., cassette player 32, CD player 33, DAT player 34) can request radio connection with the remote

controller 64. Nor is there any disclosure or suggestion in Tanihira that the commanders 11, 12, the system control unit 21, or the monitor 63 can request radio connection with the remote controller 64. Instead, Tanihira discloses that the remote controller 64 initiates communication with the commander 11 and the monitor 63 and transmits commands to the commander 11 and the monitor 63, which commands are received thereby. (FIG. 2; col. 6, lines 36-42). Upon receipt of the commands from the remote controller 64, the commander 11 and the monitor 63 control the operation of each signal source and image unit (i.e., multimedia units) (col. 6, lines 43-54). This control of the operation of the multimedia units through use of the remote controller 64 is done in the same way in Tanihira as commands issued by operation of the keys on the commander 11 by a user. (col. 6, lines 43-47; col. 7, lines 26-57). The clear import of Tanihira is that the multimedia units in Tanihira are operated solely in response to commands issued by a user, either through key inputs on the commander 11 or via the remote controller 64, and none of the multimedia units in Tanihira have the ability to request radio connection with the remote controller 64. This is also true because the connection between the remote controller 64 and the commander 11 and the monitor 63 is described and illustrated in Tanihira as being a one-way connection; that is, signals are communicated solely in the direction from the remote controller 64 to the commander 11 and the monitor 63. (FIG. 2; col. 6, lines 36-54). The commander 11 is merely a receiver of signals from the remote controller 64. The commander 11 can not be construed as a claimed interface unit since the claimed interface unit performs the function of arbitrating/coordinating. There is no disclosure or suggestion that the commander 11 or the monitor 63 include a device to transmit signals back to the remote controller 64. Thus, the commander 11 and the monitor 63 have no ability to request a radio connection with the remote controller 64. Therefore, because the remote controller 64 is disclosed to communicate solely with the commander 11 and the monitor 63 and that the commander 11 and the monitor 63

control operation of the multimedia units in the system of Tanihira, it follows that the multimedia units in Tanihira also would have no ability to request radio connection with the remote controller 64 either themselves or through the commander 11 or the monitor 63. In light of the foregoing, Tanihira is incapable of anticipating claim 1.

Claim 6

As claim 6 currently stands rejected for the identical reasons as claim 1, the arguments above with respect to the patentability of claim 1 are equally applicable to claim 6. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the anticipation rejection with respect to claim 6 is moot, and that claim 6 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 13

As claim 13 currently stands rejected for the identical reasons as claim 1, the arguments above with respect to the patentability of claim 1 are equally applicable to claim 13. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the anticipation rejection with respect to claim 13 is moot, and that claim 13 is in condition for allowance.

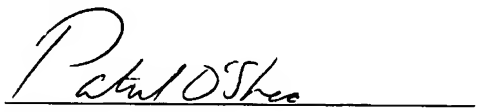
Claim 21

As claim 21 currently stands rejected for the identical reasons as claim 1, the arguments above with respect to the patentability of claim 1 are equally applicable to claim 21. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the anticipation rejection with respect to claim 21 is moot, and that claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18-23 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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